

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2021
Prepared on August 10, 2021**

ITEM NUMBER: 11

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report – Update on
Agricultural Order 4.0 Introductory
Workshops

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KEY INFORMATION: Additional information for Executive
Officer's Report.

AGRICULTURAL ORDER 4.0 (R3-2021-0040) UPDATES

Agricultural Order 4.0 (R3-2021-0040) Grower Workshops
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This supplemental sheet includes additional information regarding the public workshops Central Coast Water Board staff conducted via a virtual Zoom platform in July 2021 to introduce Order No. R3-2021-0040, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Ag Order 4.0) to growers and other interested persons. All workshops, including question and answer segments, were recorded and are available via the following link to the Irrigated Lands Program website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/regulatory_information.html

At the end of the English and Spanish workshop presentations, staff invited attendees to participate in an interactive four-question survey¹ to help inform future workshops and associated outreach efforts. The survey questions and a summary of responses are as follows:

¹ Staff provided survey questions to Chinese grower representatives for distribution in hard-copy format prior to the workshop conducted in Mandarin. Chinese growers' responses to the survey are included in the summary of responses noted below.

1. How did you hear about this workshop?

Most growers heard of the workshops through individual emails sent to them by Irrigated Lands Program staff. The second-most common way attendees learned of the workshops was through the Irrigated Lands Program website.

2. On which area(s) of Agricultural Order 4.0 would you like more workshops/tools/information?

Survey participants could select multiple responses to this question. The most common areas of interest were related to irrigation and nutrient management data collection and reporting. Groundwater sampling and riparian area measurement were the next most frequently selected topics of interest.

3. Was the virtual format of this workshop effective?

More than 95 percent of survey participants considered the virtual format to be effective.

4. What is your preference for the format of future workshops?

Ninety percent of survey participants either prefer or support a virtual format for future workshops.

The table below enumerates the number of attendees for each of the workshops and participation in the interactive surveys.

Ag Order 4.0 Introductory Workshop Participation Statistics

Language	English 1	English 2	English 3	Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Chinese- Mandarin
Workshop Date	Jul. 20, 2021	Jul. 21, 2021	Jul. 26, 2021	Jul. 22, 2021	Jul. 27, 2021	Jul. 28, 2021
Time	Afternoon	Evening	Morning	Morning	Evening	Afternoon
Attendees At Start	149	41	92	11	6	79
Attendees After Break	124	35	79	10	6	79
Attendees Participating in Survey *	73	17	40	5	5	-

* The number of attendees represents workshop participants at the time staff concluded the survey.

Participation rates for the English and Mandarin workshops were relatively high. However, participation rates for the Spanish workshops were lower than anticipated or desired even though we directed English and Spanish outreach through [Agricultural and Land-Based Training Association \(ALBA\)](#), grower shipper associations and farm bureaus in addition to targeted email outreach to all growers enrolled in the agricultural order. Prior to the initiation of future workshops, staff will be coordinating with the Office of Public Participation and agricultural service providers and associations to evaluate how we can improve outreach and workshop accessibility to Spanish growers in the Central Coast.

We'd like to thank staff from the State Water Board's Office of Public Participation for their help implementing the Mandarin and Spanish workshops. The Office of Public Participation is an actively engaged partner in support of our shared outreach and education efforts, providing translation and communication services and expertise to our many programs.